ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In a hard disk unit, a disassembling and assembling unit disassembles and assembles data in accordance with the size of data to be written from host equipment to the hard disk unit and a sector size and a cluster size as a unit to be read or written. An encoder performs predetermined arithmetic operation to generate a specific bit string as an encoding key based on at least the identification information on the host equipment or on a CPU of the host equipment, and encodes the write data by using the encoding key. The encoding process is performed by flipping bits having a predetermined correspondence with the contents of the encoding.